

Murray History Advisory Board
Minutes for September 26, 2017

Attendance: Wendy Parsons Baker, Laurel Shepard, Wendy DeMann, Mildred Horton, Sara Roach, Rebecca Santa Cruz, Elizabeth Payne (visitor), Mary Ann Kirk, Lori Edmunds, and Jennifer Broschinsky (staff). Excused: Syanna Madsen

1. Minutes were approved for August 22, 2017. Mary Ann introduced Elizabeth Payne who is interested in serving on the board. Elizabeth has an anthropology and political science background. This will be the last meeting for Wendy DeMann. Mary Ann explained this board should have 2 professionals with history related backgrounds as required for a Certified Local Government (CLG) board. A CLG is a state program that offers grants to local historic preservation boards. The requirements to establish a CLG program is incorporated into our city ordinance that established the history advisory board. Our history board oversees historic preservation along with other responsibilities for a museum and general history activities for the city.
2. The Murray Mansion is being cared for by a new city facility staff person, Jeff Martin. He has been checking on the building daily. The city is installing internet access and his offices will likely be in this building for now. Mary Ann is trying to get this person together with Steve Reid, the city building official, and Don Hartley, the state historic architect to discuss what needs to be done to bring the building up to code for public access. Mary Ann also gave him Sara's name for reference if needed. If the building is used as the museum, she has suggested the garage be used for our current museum exhibit with an added elevator and public restrooms in the northwest corner. The basement could be used for storage or caretaker living area. The ballroom would be used for special exhibits and public events and other rooms on the main floor would include changing exhibits focused on the Cahoon and Payne families who lived there. The 2nd floor would be used for office and storage and the 3rd floor for conference room/meeting space or children activities. Rebecca thought it might be nice to include two rooms on the 2nd floor for exhibit space. Sara suggested the chapel as an activity space. She also suggested the HVAC system would need to be upgraded if the 2nd floor was used for artifact storage. Rebecca said her home, which is of the same time period, doesn't need air on the main floor. Mary Ann suggested we could start simple with the exhibits if we want to start moving in once we get access even before the garage remodel is finished. We could pull artifacts from our current museum for the small rooms on the main floor. We have \$15,000 remaining in our EPA grant for the existing exhibit which could help get the garage remodel started.
3. Mary Ann reported that the city is finalizing the contract for the Murray Theater feasibility study and hopes the Arts Advisory Board will be involved in that project. It is being partially paid through a CLG grant. This year's CLG grant will also pay for 2 ILS surveys of the cemetery and a home off Bullion Street and national register nominations for 4 homes and a district addition to our downtown residential district. Those bids are coming in this week.
4. A Halloween film fest is scheduled for October 28 at the Murray Theater at 4, 6, and 8 pm. The city has allowed us to use it for a small public event that has no more than 100 people attending. The event will feature video "shorts" created by Murray High students along with the 1924 fireman video. We will also have an art exhibit featuring artwork from Matt Madsen, an early Murray artist. We will send out a request for help as the event draws closer. We are hoping to use the ticket booth in front of the theater if it is feasible. This will expose the historic building to the public.
5. Jennifer reported the first city hall exhibit is finished. It features Murray businesses with a Then and Now theme. Some are vastly altered or could even be a parking lot. Many people have stopped and commented on it. She has displayed historic photos and a current photo of various Murray businesses. She is working on the next exhibit featuring city and school buildings. Once the Ted Eyre exhibit is down, we will add one on homes.
6. Demo requests were reviewed for 558 E Benbow and 4790 S Cherry Street. The Benbow home was discussed via email. Wendy thought the building was demolished even before we exchanged emails

which was strange. Mary Ann is trying to talk the owner of 4790 S Cherry Street to keep this historic home as their office. They have not formally requested demolition but are considering it. Mary Ann wanted to discuss what documentation is needed now so we have time to consider additional research or prepare a national nomination if they decide to keep it. The board suggested we talk to Korral Broschinsky, a history consultant to see what she suggested. At the very least, we should photograph the interior if historic materials are still there. We should seek an ILS survey if Korral thinks the architectural and history elements of the home are significant. That would help determine what to do next.

7. We have 35 demo requests to date, 6 of those buildings are on our registry including one national register listing. The national register home, 5419 S 900 East, is currently still standing. Demolition permits require contact with the history staff. Buildings less than 50 years old (out of period) do not need any further action. Buildings older than 50 years old need photo documentation - historic if available on county website and current provided by individual requesting demolition. Buildings older than 50 years old and on the local register must be reviewed by the history board to determine if additional documentation beyond photos is important to preserve the history of the building. History staff contacts the city permitting office once this process is complete.
8. The board reviewed a deaccession request for several broken china pieces from a china set. It appears these plates had been broken and glued for some time but the glue no longer works. Jennifer has spoken with the original donor and they had no concerns of discarding the broken plates. Mary Ann explained that deaccession items would typically be offered to other museum related agencies. If no one is interested, we would try to contact original donors but it might be given to the DI if no one wants it. **The Board approved discarding the broken objects.**
9. Mary Ann reviewed the board ordinance. It includes a mission statement and 4 areas of focus including historic preservation, museum, public education, and resources including staffing and facilities. This directly relates to our 5 year plan which uses the exact wording and then lists items we are working on or would like to accomplish to meet those focus areas.

The board advises city officials which can be done through a variety of ways including discussions with staff, minutes, memos, meetings with the mayor, and presentations to city council. Mary Ann felt the board was doing those things although some methods were more effective than others. Although we may disagree, we should be careful with communication to keep a good working relationship with staff and elected officials so we have a positive influence. But we could encourage more follow up. She also tries to educate city staff on state and federal code regarding historic buildings.

She explained the process to put something on the local register as described in the ordinance. We have a form developed for individuals to nominate buildings to our local register but nominations typically come from staff after reviewing RLS surveys. For national nominations, Mary Ann tries to read it for accuracy and shares it with board members for education. Mary Ann explained our register does not restrict owners from making changes but they are required to call us so we can educate them about the best way to preserve historic qualities. Rebecca thought this was the best way to approach it and liked the informational items in the newsletters.

Wendy P asked why the area between 5600 South and about 60th South was not included in the Hillside District because it reflects the same time period and she thought it was well preserved. Mary Ann said the boundaries were identified by the RLS survey. She said the RLS consultant recommended the boundaries based off the survey but that area could be reviewed again.

Mary Ann received a report from 2012 from the state that shows a large percentage of Murray buildings are 50+ years old. They are working on a new system and once that is completed, we can access the most recent data. We are the only city in the state of Utah that has surveyed the whole city. This has given us a good data base to select buildings for our registry. The board has also reviewed the various surveys to determine what homes should be further documented. They have taken several tours around the city to look at the buildings. We could review the RLS surveys again to see if anything else needs to be added to our register and review the recommendations again to educate new board members and staff.